

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 37**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member De Leon**

February 19, 2010

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 37—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 37, as amended, De Leon. Immigration.

This measure would specify principles for repairing the nation's broken immigration system and would urge Congress and the President of the United States to take a comprehensive and workable approach to improving the nation's immigration system using those principles.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded by  
2 immigrants who ~~traveled~~ *came from* around the world seeking a  
3 better life; and

4 WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken. It  
5 separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security  
6 programs, contributes to labor abuses, and creates long backlogs  
7 for families seeking naturalization. Further, it neglects the hard  
8 work and financial contributions immigrants make to our country;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented  
11 immigrants are in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, California has one of the biggest populations of  
13 immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

1     ~~WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children comprise nearly~~  
2 ~~one-half of California's population and live and work in all 58~~  
3 ~~counties, most notably in the San Diego, Central Valley, Los~~  
4 ~~Angeles, and greater San Francisco areas; and~~

5     ~~WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children comprise nearly~~  
6 ~~one-half of California's population and contribute to local~~  
7 ~~economies. In the San Francisco Bay area, immigrants contribute~~  
8 ~~22% of the region's economic activity. In Santa Clara County,~~  
9 ~~immigrants contribute 44% of the region's economic activity. In~~  
10 ~~Fresno, immigrants contribute 27% of the region's economic~~  
11 ~~activity. In Orange County, immigrants contribute 33% of the~~  
12 ~~region's economic activity. In the Inland Empire, immigrants~~  
13 ~~contribute 28% of the region's economic activity. In San Diego,~~  
14 ~~immigrants contribute 25% of the region's economic activity; and~~

15     ~~WHEREAS, Approximately 77% of undocumented immigrants~~  
16 ~~that reside in California live with families members that are legal~~  
17 ~~United States residents and citizens; and~~

18     ~~WHEREAS, One in eleven workers in California is an~~  
19 ~~undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant,~~  
20 ~~productive, and vital part of the state's growing economy, diverse~~  
21 ~~cultural fabric, and changing demographics. Immigrant worker~~  
22 ~~populations in California are concentrated in a variety of sectors,~~  
23 ~~including leisure and hospitality, construction, food and agriculture,~~  
24 ~~service, transportation, and textile sectors. Many immigrants~~  
25 ~~throughout the state even own have even started their own small~~  
26 ~~businesses; and~~

27     ~~WHEREAS, The integration of immigrants and the development~~  
28 ~~of a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration~~  
29 ~~system is critical to ensure that our state continues to have a strong~~  
30 ~~economy; and~~

31     ~~WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have~~  
32 ~~a positive impact on the economy because moving workers out of~~  
33 ~~a vulnerable underground status produces both short-term and~~  
34 ~~long-term economic gains. Doing so will strengthen the ability of~~  
35 ~~working families to become more productive, with higher levels~~  
36 ~~of income and job-generating consumption, and will increase their~~  
37 ~~net contributions to tax revenues; and~~

38     ~~WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have~~  
39 ~~a positive impact on the economy in the short and long term.~~  
40 ~~Recent data released by the Center for American Progress~~

1 *University of California, Los Angeles*, indicates that legalizing the  
2 status of undocumented immigrants working and living in the  
3 United States would create roughly \$1.5 trillion in additional GDP  
4 growth over 10 years and increase wages for all workers; and

5 WHEREAS, A study released by the University of Southern  
6 California estimates that the immediate and long-term effects of  
7 enacting comprehensive immigration reform would result in a \$16  
8 billion boost to California’s economy; and

9 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional  
10 immigration system will uphold our nation’s basic values of  
11 fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law; and

12 WHEREAS, A comprehensive approach to solve our broken  
13 immigration system, one that works for all communities and  
14 families in America, should include the following elements: (1) a  
15 plan for providing legal status with a path to citizenship to  
16 undocumented immigrants who are working and living in the  
17 United States, which plan should include the AgJOBS Act of 2009  
18 and DREAM Act of 2009, (2) improvement of the economic  
19 situation of all workers in the United States, (3) the reform of visa  
20 programs in order to keep families together, protect workers’ rights,  
21 and ensure that future immigration is regulated and controlled  
22 rather than illegal and chaotic, (4) the implementation of smart,  
23 effective enforcement measures targeted at the worst violators of  
24 immigration and labor laws, (5) prioritizing immigrant integration  
25 into our communities and country, and (6) respect for the due  
26 process rights of everyone in the United States;; now, therefore,  
27 be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
29 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President and  
30 the Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive and  
31 workable approach to solving our nation’s broken immigration  
32 system, using the principles described in this resolution; and be it  
33 further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
35 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the  
36 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
37 to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress  
38 of the United States.

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